

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of November 3, 2005 and the Advisory Action of February 27, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1, 6, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected as obvious over Wood (US 2002/0070970) in view of Heuscher (US 5,544,212).

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner asserts that the limitation of the first (thin) and second (thick) slices being parallel and viewed from the same direction is not described in the specification. To the contrary, page 8, lines 10-11, describe a preferred embodiment in which both the first or thin slices and the thick or second slices represent axial cross-section views. Since all of the thick and thin slices in this embodiment are axial sections parallel to a common plane, particularly the axial plane, they must all be parallel to each other.

It is submitted that viewing a plurality of axial slice images, which are inherently parallel to each other, inherently suggests viewing the slices from a common direction since. As shown in view port 510 of Wood, axial slice images are customarily viewed head on. Nonetheless, the applicants have cancelled this phrase because the phrase is unnecessary to patentability.

The Present Amendment Should Be Entered

The present amendment addresses only the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues. More specifically, it is submitted that the present amendment reduces the issues on appeal by resolving the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues. Moreover, the present amendment adds no limitations or other amendments to the claims which would require further search or consideration.

Interview Summary

In a telephone conference with Examiner Brian Casler during the week of March 13, Examiner Casler indicated agreement that the amendment should be entered as reducing the issues on appeal. It was the understanding of the undersigned that a supplemental Advisory Action indicating entry of the Amendment After Final would be issued. It was further the understanding of the undersigned, that the amendment would be entered as resolving the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 issues were not discussed and it is understood that these issues will be resolved on appeal.

**Claims 1-18 Distinguish Patentably Over
The References of Record**

The applicants again assert that claims 1-18 distinguish patentably over the references of record and refer the Examiner to the detailed remarks set forth in the Amendment of February 3, 2006.

Telephone Interview

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

CONCLUSION

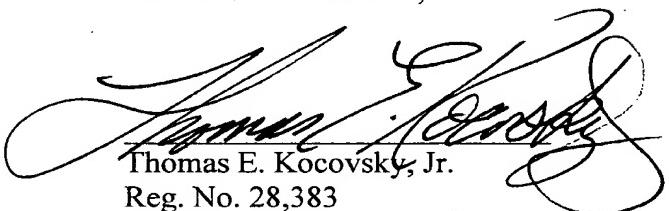
For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment should be entered as reducing the issues on appeal. An early indication that the amendment has been entered and that the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues have been resolved is requested.

The applicants also request that the Examiner reconsider the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection and that it be withdrawn.

An early allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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